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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*European treaties bearing on the history of the United States and its dependencies to 1648.* Edited by Frances G. Davenport. [Carnegie institution of Washington, Publication No. 254. Papers of the department of historical research, J. Franklin Jameson, editor] (Washington, D. C.: Carnegie institution of Washington, 1917. 387 p.)

To most students Miss Davenport's volume will be a revelation. Even those who have specialized in American diplomacy generally skip the period between the papal bulls and the treaty of Utrecht, or at best bestow merely a hasty glance upon its problems, arising chiefly from the proximity of the expanding English colonies to their Dutch, French, and Spanish neighbors. Such students have recognized that affairs in America up to 1763 were almost wholly determined in European capitals, but they needed some such demonstration as the present volume, with scarcely a gap of twenty years between documents, to show them that this determination was of great moment and of varied documentary bulk.

Miss Davenport presents forty documents in the present volume, which ends in 1648, and promises another covering the period to 1713, where most students begin their serious work. Nine papal bulls appear in the list. Comparatively few of the state papers are concerned with lines of demarcation. Trading privileges and allied topics, the activities of corsairs and their mercantile abettors, and the growing jealous rivalry in colonial exploitation account for most of the material herein given. No one will quarrel with this procedure, which rightly emphasizes the economic side of colonization even if it increases so greatly the mass of our available diplomatic material.

Four documents, three of them emanating from the pope, precede the explorations of Columbus. A like number of bulls, in May and September, 1493, attempt to regulate the conflicting claims that arise from the fortunate landfall of the Genoese mariner. The first sixteen documents, up to April, 1529, and a later one, dated 1552, are wholly taken up with the affairs of Spain and Portugal, primarily in the far east; but the territorial and trading questions between the two countries are left unsettled at the latter date. Still the volume will permit a more thorough study of these questions in English than has hitherto

been possible. A treaty between Portugal and France in 1536 marks the first appearance of the latter country and also the beginning of the policy of combination among the enemies of Spain which broke the attempted colonial monopoly of that power. From this date on, France, England, the Netherlands, and even Denmark, and the colonies of Massachusetts Bay and Arcadia, are represented in the negotiations that aim to secure the results of more lawless exploits elsewhere. Of the colonizing powers that were active during the first half of the seventeenth century, Sweden alone is not represented. Its name does not even appear in the index. The series fittingly closes with extracts from the treaty of Muenster, which definitely recognized the colonial rights of the Dutch and marked the formal renunciation by Spain of her assumed commercial supremacy in the new world.

The text of the documents is given in Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and French, with an English translation in each case for all except the last named. The editor furnishes a general introduction that develops the historical setting for each document and in addition precedes each with a more detailed account of the events leading up to the negotiation that produced it. With some adaptation these introductions might be woven into a brief but valuable diplomatic history of early American colonization, and it is to be hoped that Miss Davenport will be able to supply this needed volume. Her bibliographic notes show what her friends already knew, that she has visited nearly all the important archives of western Europe in searching for original manuscripts. In a few cases only has she been unable to find these originals; in more cases she offers originals for the first time. When documents have already been printed, she refers definitely to the best available texts and translations, and her work shows most careful collation both with original manuscripts and with printed texts. Her references to contemporary and early writings and to later accounts are exceedingly complete and make the volume serviceable in advanced college classes. These and the wealth of annotation fill one with a respectful admiration for her patience and accurate scholarship, of which the general editor in his preface modestly hints. Such work as Miss Davenport has done speaks for itself with the discerning reader, to whom, alas! the audience is restricted. The index, by David M. Matteson, adds to the usefulness of the book. Students will await with confident interest Miss Davenport's second volume, carrying the story down to 1713, and commend the Carnegie institution as well as the editors for this substantial contribution to colonial diplomacy.

I. J. C.